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Message Text

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72
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 NSC-07 COME-00 DRC-01 /118 W
---------- 092466
R 091447Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8188
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1852

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS BEXP NO NATO
SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2802 (B) NATO 2437 (C) STATE 89703 (D) OSLO 1740

1. MAJOR GENERAL SVERRE HAMRE, DIRECTOR OF MATERIEL IN THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND HEAD OF THE FOUR NATION STEERING COMMITTEE, IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVE (PARA 2 OF REF A). HE REPORTS DIRECTLY TO DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL. FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE, HAMRE WILL BE RELYING PRIMARILY ON COLONEL BJORGE-HANSEN, INSPECTOR OF FLYING, AND BJORGE-HANSEN'S STAFF.

2. THE STEERING COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO HAMRE, WILL HAVE TWO
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PRINCIPLE AIMS: (1) TO ARRIVE AT CONSENSUS ON LOGICAL

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REPLACEMENT CANDIDATES BASED UPON CAPABILITY TO SATISFY THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OF EACH COUNTRY, AND (2) TO PRESENT THE CANDIDATES TO THE DEFENSE MINISTERS SOMETIME PRIOR TO THEIR MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MID-JUNE. SUBSEQUENT TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL AGREEMENT, A FOUR NATION DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS WITH INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS TO DISCUSS PRICING, GUARANTEES ETC. (PARA 3B OF REF B).

3. COMMENT: THE IMPACT IN NORWAY OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S LETTER SUPPORTING THE LWF PROGRAM AND CONTEMPLATING DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADVANCED COMBAT FIGHTER FROM THE LWF PROGRAM (REF C) HAS BEEN TO REINFORCE THE NORWEGIAN VIEW THAT THE FOUR COUNTRIES MUST GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO BOTH US CANDIDATES FOR THE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER. ASSUMING THAT BOTH US AIRCRAFT SATISFY MILITARY REQUIREMTS, MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE NORWEGIANS BELIEVE (AND WE CONCUR) THAT A DECISION BY THE FOUR COUNTRY GROUP PRIOR TO A U.S. DECISION ON SOURCE SELECTION IN FY 75 IS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE SUPER F-1 WITH THE M-53 ENGINE WILL NOT ACTUALLY FLY BEFORE DECEMBER 1974, WHEN BOTH U.S. LWF CANDIDATES WILL HAVE COMPLETED MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OF TESTING AND ESTABLISHED AN EVEN CLEARER TECHNICAL LEAD OVER THE DASSAULT PRODUCT.
BUCHANAN

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